

Cooperation And Teamwork — Keys To Future Health Services

by Robert L. Hotchkiss, MD

The environment in Missouri is one of fiscal restraint and that makes discussions about least costly care very appropriate. When I took this position a little over a year ago, I was advised by many of my colleagues against it. They said Missouri was not in the best fiscal shape and that the Division of Health in the state had a major liability in the fact that it was responsible for environmental health, but was located in the Department of Social Sciences. The fact that the Division of Health is linked to the Division of Family Services through the Department of the Social Services, is the bright spot. The biggest challenge was how to get the best possible health care system established in the state within resources available.

Although the resources are on the verge of shrinking again, many new opportunities have come to us

in state government through federal action in 1981, including the possibility for application for state waivers. We view the current application for home health care for the chronically ill child as a major breakthrough. It allows us to get past many of the bureaucratic stumbling blocks that have been built at the state, local and federal levels, to get to the heart of the problem.

The possibility of delivering excellent care in a humane setting at less cost is an immensely desirable goal for all of us. We look forward to the challenge of implementing this program as soon as we get approval from our friends at the federal level. I think the environment in this century will be one of very tight fiscal resources and one in which only through innovation, cooperation and teamwork will we continue to deliver much needed services. ●

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